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REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., page 15, line 20 to page 16, line 6; and page 33, lines 3-13).

As amended, claim 1 recites "the information processing section detects and tracks the one or more moving objects, and is able to perform pan and tilt operations, based on the image information" (emphasis added).

According to the Applicants' claimed invention, an area of interest can be monitored by using a hyperboloidal mirror in conjunction with a video camera. By modifying values in a conversion table, pan and tilt operations can be readily performed without the need for a movable camera (see, e.g., specification at page 33, lines 3-13).

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,226,035 to Korcin et al. (hereinafter "Korein") in view of U.S. Patent 6,304,285 to Geng. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korein in view of Geng, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,953,449 to Matsuda et al. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korein in view of Geng, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,787,199 to Lee. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Korein reference does not teach or suggest a moving object tracking apparatus including a single stationary camera which does not rotate and an information processing section that detects and tracks one or more moving objects, and is able to perform pan and tilt operations, based on image information.

Korein discloses the use of a wide-angle optical system including a curved mirror such as a hyperbolic, parabolic, or elliptical mirror and an associated camera (see column 2, line 39 to column 3, line 5). In Korein, a separate PTZ camera, such as image sensor 20, is operable to

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perform pan, tilt, and zoom functions on an area of interest found by the wide-angle system (see column 3, lines 31-38; and column 6, lines 49-65).

Korein strongly encourages the use of such a wide-angle optical system and a separate PTZ camera in order to eliminate "the problems of mechanical and optical interference caused by motors and drives" (see column 8, lines 14-17). Therefore, Korein clearly teaches away from the Applicants' claimed invention, which recites a single stationary camera and an information processing system that is capable of performing pan and tilt operations.

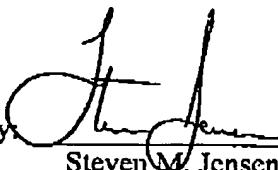
The Geng reference fails to remedy the deficiencies of Korein. Geng is not capable of detecting and tracking one or more moving objects, or performing pan and tilt operations. Even if Geng were somehow combined with Korein, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be provided with sufficient teaching to implement the Applicants' claimed invention.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the combination of Korein in view of Geng does not teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed invention as recited in claim 1.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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